

TRIBUTE TO THE GREATEST  
GENERATION

**HON. MARY BONO MACK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women who fought and served in World War II. Their courage, selflessness and remarkable contributions to our country must never be forgotten. They fought not for fame or recognition, and too often made the ultimate sacrifice, but because it was simply their duty.

When Tom Brokaw declared them the "greatest generation any society has ever produced," no one could have described them in more fitting terms. After suffering through the Great Depression as youths, they were summoned to war following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. They didn't hesitate. They jumped at the chance to fight for their country in the heat of the South Pacific, the chill of Europe and other fronts around the globe. When they returned home, they humbly kept the horrors of war to themselves, not wanting to trouble their families with the terror of what they had faced. Women who had never held a job outside of the home before served as nurses, built tanks and planes, and those who stayed home immediately went to work to support the war effort. Truly, their unwavering patriotism is exemplary and serves as an inspiration to future generations.

I am honored to pay tribute to this generation because I am the proud daughter of a World War II veteran who flew a B17 bomber in Europe during the war. My dad's unwavering courage, unimaginable sacrifices and tireless work ethic is typical of his generation. Because of my dad and others like him, we live in freedom in the greatest country on Earth. As this generation ages, it's up to us to keep their legacy strong and tell their story to generations to come. Together, we must "keep the Spirit of '45 Alive." I commend the residents of the Coachella Valley for their efforts to do just that.

The Palm Springs Air Museum, where old bombers like my dad's stand proudly on display, is hosting a "Spirit of '45 Day" next month to honor those who fought in World War II. Events like these serve as a worthy salute to this brave generation before we are left with only their memory. The Palm Springs Air Museum is a community treasure and labor of love for those dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of our nation's heroic aviators. It is well worth a visit for anyone who wants to learn more about the role our brave pilots and other service personnel played in many epic conflicts. I want to extend special thanks to the many volunteers and supporters who ensure the continued operation of this outstanding museum.

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, General Dwight Eisenhower told his troops that the eyes of the world were upon them. Those words were powerful then, but still rings true today. Indeed, the eyes of the world will always be upon the Greatest Generation, and I hope you'll join me in making every effort to preserve their remarkable legacy, a legacy that will never be diminished as long as the Republic they fought so heroically to preserve endures.

HONORING DEAN WELDON  
SLEIGHT

**HON. ADRIAN SMITH**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Weldon Sleight as he retires as Dean of the University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA).

Dean Sleight has led NCTA since 2006 and played a vital role in supporting the college legacy and our rural agriculture economy along the way.

Under his watch NCTA constructed a new residence hall, expanded the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and built a state-of-the-art education center.

In addition, Dean Sleight has established innovative programs combining entrepreneurship and agriculture such as the "Combat Boots to Cowboy Boots" initiative, designed to assist military personnel, their families and veterans in becoming farmers and ranchers; and the "100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage" program which assists students, parents, employers, and agencies in creating successful businesses and ranch transfer plans.

When Dean Sleight retires in December of this year, we wish him the best of luck and thank him for his contribution to agriculture, education and Nebraska.

DEBRINA WORKMAN 30 YEARS  
WITH CONGRESSMAN NICK  
RAHALL

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, thirty years ago today, a young woman joined my Congressional Staff to help serve our fellow West Virginians in the midst of our State's rich coalfields. She hailed from the community of Holden and still resides there near her parents' home.

Though she was very young, she had a burning passion to help people. And so she has, by the hundreds, nay thousands, over the decades working from her home base in my Logan District Office. For years, once a week, she did outreach work, bringing the constituent services of this Member of Congress to the good people of Mingo County. Working from the Mingo County seat of government in Williamson, she keeps me abreast of the important issues confronting the citizens of the Tug River Valley, the demarcation line of the famed Hatfield and McCoy Feud.

To say she is a seasoned expert in agency process, procedure and practice is an understatement. She knows constituent casework inside and out. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, she knows the families of the coalfields, where they came from and where most of them are headed. She knows this because she cares, cares deeply that people are treated justly, and that justice is meted in a timely manner. She can scrap the varnish off truth faster and cleaner than anyone I know, whether you want her to or not.

In the office she laughs with family members when things go right for them, and at

home in the evening, she sheds tears for them when they are troubled. Indeed her passion still burns brightly, though now through these many years, it takes on the golden hue of seasoned compassion. She knows just the right thing to say to put people at ease. Not the art of politics, just working the Golden Rule, overtime.

In these past thirty years, she has stuck with the people of southern West Virginia, through floods, blizzards and now a derecho. Her loyalty knows no bounds, even by Mother Nature's standards. Those in West Virginia's Third Congressional District and I are indeed fortunate to have Debrina Taylor Workman on our side because when the need arises, she can be a force of nature all by herself.

Members of Congress are indeed blessed with godsenders like Debrina to help us serve. While we don't say it often enough, we are thankful for their many sacrifices on our and the good people we represent behalves. Please join me in thanking Debrina for thirty years of service to her country and its families. May the good Lord's blessings continue to shine upon Debrina, her son, Jordan, and her many friends and family.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND MARSHALS FOR DELANO'S 38TH ANNUAL PHILIPPINE WEEKEND

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Marshals for Delano's 38th Annual Philippine Weekend. This event takes place in my district each year to honor and celebrate the Filipino culture. This year's honorees are Juanita Quiocho Villaruz, Suzanne Villaruz, and Arleen Villaruz-Gonzales, and they were selected for their dedication to service in their community. They are terrific examples of strong women that exhibit leadership, selflessness, and perseverance.

Juanita immigrated to the United States in 1958 from Rancho, Santa, Ilocos Sur, Philippines. She married Louie V. Villaruz, and had three children—Suzanne, Arleen, and Lounito. While supporting their young family, Juanita and Louie were active in the United Farm Workers of America's efforts to change conditions and wages for farm laborers. In 1970, Juanita found herself having to support three children on her own due to Louie's sudden death. She received training and worked as a psychiatric technician at Porterville State Hospital. Juanita retired from the State of California in 1995.

As a member of many different organizations, Juanita has stayed extremely active in the Filipino community. She was a charter member of the Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Cultural and Educational Association and served as president in 1976–77. She is also a member of the Filipino Catholic Association, Legionarios del Trabajo, the Filipino Community of Delano, and the Sons of Santa, of which she is a past president.

Juanita has always had a sense of service and participation in her community which she has undoubtedly passed down to her children.

Suzanne Villaruz was born in Delano and graduated from Delano High School in 1977.